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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/994,723	11/28/2001	Satoshi Nishikawa	35.G2949	8316

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EXAMINER	
QIN, YIXING	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2625	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	12/28/2006	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/994,723	NISHIKAWA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Yixing Qin	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *16 October 2006*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *6-10,16-20,26-30 and 32* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *6-10,16-20,26-30 and 32* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *28 November 2001* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

In response to applicant's amendment received 10/16/06, all requested changes have been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 10/6/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The main argument is that Holt does not disclose two types of N-up printing based upon output sheet information. The Examiner respectfully disagrees. As mentioned before, Holt shows in Figs. 14A-14C different layouts that can be printed and column 32, lines 8-66 disclose a printing example of 4-up printing. Column 17, lines 56-67 – column 19, lines 1-8 describe the drawings 14A-14C in detail. Specifically, column 17, lines 55-62 describe Fig. 14A, which reads upon a printable area N-page printing arrangement. Note that Holt says that partial pages are possible using this setup. If there were no partial pages, on of ordinary skill would realize the pages would just be evenly divided on the sheet of paper.

Fig. 14C and column 18, lines 3-9 describe another arrangement that is possible. Fig. 14C reads upon a physical N-page printing arrangement because it has divided areas, with each page being centered in each divided area. Again, column 18, lines 23-32 disclose that pages can be referred to by page coordinates, which depend upon margin and gap settings (i.e. margin and gap settings can read upon output sheet information since they determine why type of n-up printing occurs. See, column 16,

lines 29-67 and column 17, lines 1-55 for descriptions of how pages are formed through the use of page sizes, gaps, grids and offsets.)

Basically, the Holt reference discloses equations that can produce different arrangements for N-up printing through the use of variable grid and page sizes, offsets, gaps, etc. Figs. 14A-C have are very similar to Figs. 21A-21C of the applicant's drawings, and one of ordinary skill in the art knows that in order to arrange the sheets in a certain manner, one has to simply manipulate the various variables as described in the Holt invention to find a satisfactory fit of N-pages in a page for printing. Essentially, Holt discloses a template for N-up printing that one of ordinary skill in the art can manipulate to obtain various N-up arrangements on a page. Please see the rejection below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

I. Claims 6-10, 16-20, 26-30 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Holt (U..S. Patent No. (5,495,561).

Regarding claims 6, 16, 26, 32, Holt discloses an information processing apparatus for having a printer driver which generates print data to be printed at a printing apparatus using a plurality of pages of drawing data input from an application, comprising:

entry means for entering a designation of N-page printing in which drawing data of N pages (N > 1, N is an integer) is printed on one print sheet; (column 32, lines 8-10)

physical N-page printing arranging means for dividing a physical page into N areas and for arranging the drawing data of each page at a center of each of equal N-divided areas of the physical page, wherein, if a physical sheet of the physical page is cut into N pieces of sheet, the print result of each page is arranged at the center of one piece of cut sheet (column 17, lines 55-62 describe Fig. 14A, which reads upon a printable area N-page printing arrangement. Note that Holt says that partial pages are possible using this setup. If there were no partial pages, on of ordinary skill would realize the pages would just be evenly divided on the sheet of paper)

printable area N-page printing arranging means for dividing a printable area, which is obtained by subtracting a print margin from the physical page, into N printable areas and for arranging the drawing data of each page in each of equal N-divided printable areas of the printable area on the physical page, wherein the print result of N pages are arranged toward the center of the physical sheet, (Fig. 14A, column 18, lines 3-9. The Examiner notes that while the drawings in Figs. 14A-C of Holt are not exactly the same as the ones in Fig. 21A-21C of the applicant's drawings, they are striking

similar and one of ordinary skill can easily manipulate the variables in Holt's invention to obtain different N-up arrangements. The means through which this is accomplished is by using the paginator of Holt)

determining means for determining which one of said physical N-page printing arranging means and said printable region N-page printing arranging means is employed to execute processing for arranging the pages on the basis of output sheet information, in a case where a print request occurs for the designation of N-page printing entered by said entry means; and (column 18, lines 23-32)

generation means for generating the print data by executing the determined one of said physical N-page printing arranging means and said printable region N-page printing arranging means. (column 16, lines 29-67 and column 17, lines 1-55)

Regarding claims 7, 17, 27, Holt discloses further comprising condition acquiring means for acquiring a physical N-page printing condition, wherein said determining means determines, based on the physical N-page printing condition acquired by said condition acquiring means, which one of said physical N-page printing arranging means and said printable region N-page printing arranging means is employed to execute processing for arranging the pages. (column 32, lines 51-63, one can see that various rectangular coordinates (i.e. conditions) for determining the page size and printable area is used. The condition acquiring means can be the program or function that gets these variables. It would be obvious that, depending on the coordinates put in, the

images on the page can be manipulated to look like the ones in Holt, Fig. 14, which is analogous to the physical and printable region N-page layouts being claimed.)

Regarding claims 8, 18, 28, Holt discloses wherein said physical N-page printing condition is information indicating which one of plural types of N-page printing is set to physical N-page printing. (Again, from claim 6 above, the example given said there was to be four copies that were to appear on one page. This combined with the condition information as explained in claim ,7 above meets the limitations of this claim.)

Regarding claims 9, 19, Holt discloses wherein said determining means determines. in a case where said output sheet information indicates 4-zone post card which is premised that a printed sheet is cut into N-sheets,to employ said physical N-page printing arranging means . (Column 32, lines 8-11 disclose that the example will create a brochure with 4 pages appearing on one sheet. Although the brochure is not a post card, the general idea is the same. The cutting 9f paper is well known (see page 3 of the specification) and would be obvious to one of ordinary skill to incorporate information regarding the cutting of sheets as a printing condition, if needed. As explained above in claim 6, one can see various information that is designated in, for example, Figs. 1 1-13 of Holt. The determined result from this can be seen in Fig. 14A-C. It would be obvious there can be various predetermined output sheet information (such as size).)

Regarding claims 10, 20, 30, Holt discloses wherein said condition acquiring means acquires said physical N-page printing condition from an external device. (Fig. 5, Holt shows the usage of different print channels and hosts for inputting information to be printed.)

Regarding claim 29, Holt discloses a printing control program according to Claim 27, wherein said physical N-page printing condition is information indicating that physical N-page printing is set when a predetermined output sheet size is designated. (As explained above in claim 6, one can see various information that is designated in, for example, Figs. 1 1-13 of Holt. The determined result from this can be seen in Fig. 14A-C. One of the pieces information that is needed would be the size, as is apparent from column 12, line 18 of Holt.)

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yixing Qin whose telephone number is (571)272-7381. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler Lamb can be reached on (571)272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

YQ

TWYLER LAMB
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER